GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2008
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005
PRECAUTION FOR TSUNAMI
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Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Tsunamis which hit the Indian ocean till date; and

(b) the precautionary measures taken by the Government to save west coast of India from an impending Tsunami?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) As per available information, the details of Tsunamis which hit the Indian ocean are provided below:

Date Particulars

326 B.C. Alexander the Great
Between 1st April and 9th May 1008
Tsunami on the Iranian coast from a local earthquake

August 27th 1883 Krakatoa
1.5 m tsunami at Madras, 0.6 m at Nagapattinam, 0.2 m at Arden

1884 Earthquake in the western part of the Bay of Bengal
Tsunamis at Port Blair, Dublet (mouth of Hooghly River)

26th June 1941 8.1 quake in the Andaman Sea at 12.9(N, 92.5(E.
Tsunamis on the east coast of India with amplitudes from 0.75 to 1.25 m

27th November 1945 8.25 quake 70 km south of Karachi at 24.5(N, 63.0(E
Tsunami amplitude at Kutch was 11.0 to 11.5 m.

However, only one tsunami incident of August 27, 1883 is confirmed.

(b) As far as west coast is concerned, the major source of Tsunami generating earthquake is in Makaran Coast, and extensions of Bhuj(2001) and Katchch (1819) earthquake faults in Arabian sea. This is being taken care of by installing appropriate tide gauges and databuoy network coupled with tsunami warning sensors, strengthening of the existing seismological network, modelling of inundation scenarios and establishing a center for collection of the information analysis and generating status advisories.